

News from Rep. Stephanie Herseth
For Immediate Release
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HERSETH STATEMENT ON JAPAN AGAIN HALTING U.S. BEEF
IMPORTS

January 20, 2006, Washington, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Stephanie
Herseth today commented on Japan's decision to again close its border to
U.S. beef imports. Herseth said, "This decision is frustrating because it
results not from an indication of tainted beef, but rather from a minor
violation of the terms of our agreement with Japan. I am hopeful that the
USDA can swiftly resolve this technicality and we can resume trade in an
expedited fashion."

Japan's action was triggered by the discovery of a part of a vertebral
column in a shipment of U.S. beef. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns
said that such an inclusion is a violation of the terms of our negotiated
agreement with Japan. It was not, however, seen as a risk because it came
from cows less than 30 months old.

Herseth added, "While disappointing, it's critically important not to
overreact to this development, which is based on a technicality rather than
substantive risk. Reestablishment of open trade with Japan has had a
positive effect on our beef market, and we continue to produce the highest
quality, safest beef in the world."

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